LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn) A method of producing a print medium, comprising steps of:

a) preparing a coating composition having an acidic pH, said coating composition comprising:

i) a dispersion of inorganic particulates;

ii) a polymeric binder; and

iii) a weak base comprising a salt of an alkali metal and a weak acid; and

b) coating a media substrate with the coating composition to form an ink-receiving layer thereon.

2. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, further comprising a step of including an acid in the coating composition that is reactive with the weak base.

3. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 2, wherein the acid is provided by an acidic cross linking agent.

4. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein the weak base generates gas bubbles as a result of the acidic pH.

5. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 4, wherein the gas bubbles are CO_2 bubbles.

6. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein the weak base is selected from the group consisting of alkali carbonate salt, alkali bicarbonate salt, and mixtures thereof.

7. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein the alkali metal is selected from the group consisting of sodium, lithium, and potassium.

8. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 7, wherein the alkali metal is sodium.

9. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 7, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.

10. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein the pH of the coating composition is from about 2.0 to about 6.0.

11. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 10, wherein the pH of the coating composition is from about 3.0 to about 4.5.

12. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein the salt is added to the coating composition at from about 0.001 wt% to about 10 wt%.

13. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 1, wherein the media substrate is a coated media substrate, and the coating composition is a topcoat to be applied to the coated media substrate.

14. (currently amended) A print medium, comprising:

a) a media substrate; and

b) an ink-receiving layer applied to the media substrate, said ink-receiving layer comprising:

i) a dispersion of inorganic particulates;

ii) a polymeric binder; and

iii) gas generated bubbles located within the ink-receiving layer, wherein the gas generated bubbles are generated by reacting an acid with a weak base comprising a salt of an alkali metal and a weak acid, and wherein the alkali metal is present in the ink-receiving layer at from about 0.4 wt% to about 10 wt%.

15. (original) A print medium as in claim 14, wherein the ink-receiving layer contains excess amounts of the acid.

16. (original) A print medium as in claim 14, wherein the acid is provided by an acidic cross linking agent.

17. (original) A print medium as in claim 14, wherein the ink-receiving layer contains an excess of the weak base.

18. (original) A print medium as in claim 14, wherein the weak base is selected from the group consisting of a carbonate, a bicarbonate, and mixtures thereof.

19. (original) A print medium as in claim 14, wherein the alkali metal is selected from the group consisting of sodium, lithium, and potassium.

20. (original) A print medium as in claim 19, wherein the alkali metal is sodium.

21. (original) A print medium as in claim 19, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.

22. (original) A print medium as in claim 14, wherein the pH of the ink-receiving layer is from about 2.0 to about 6.0.

23. (original) A print medium as in claim 22, wherein the pH of the ink-receiving layer is from about 3.0 to about 4.5.

24. (canceled)

25. (original) A print medium as in claim 14, wherein the ink-receiving layer has an average thickness of from about 10 μm to about 60 μm.

26. (original) A print medium as in claim 14, wherein the bubbles have an average diameter of less than about 10 μm.

27. (original) A print medium as in claim 26, wherein the bubbles have an average diameter of from about 0.01 μm to about 0.1 μm

28. (original) A print medium as in claim 14, wherein the media substrate is a coated media substrate, and the ink-receiving layer is applied as a topcoat to the coated media substrate.

29. (original) A print medium as in claim 28, wherein the ink-receiving layer has an average thickness of from about 0.1 μm to about 10 μm.

30. (original) A print medium as in claim 29, wherein the alkali metal concentration in the ink-receiving layer applied as a topcoat is greater than is present in the coated media substrate.

31. (withdrawn) A printed image on a print medium, comprising:

a) a media substrate;

b) an ink-receiving layer applied to the media substrate, said ink-receiving layer comprising;

i) a dispersion of inorganic particulates;

ii) a polymeric binder; and

iii) a salt of an alkali metal and a carbonate or bicarbonate species; and

c) an ink-jet ink printed on at least a portion of the ink-receiving layer.

32. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 31, wherein the ink-receiving layer also includes an acid reactive with the salt.

33. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 32, wherein the acid is provided by an acidic cross linking agent.

34. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 31, wherein the ink-receiving layer contains an excess of the carbonate or bicarbonate species.

35. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 32, wherein the acid and the salt generate CO_2 bubbles, said CO_2 bubbles providing voids which remain present in the ink-receiving layer.

36. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 31, wherein the alkali metal is selected from the group consisting of sodium, lithium, and potassium.

37. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 36, wherein the alkali metal is sodium.

38. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 36, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.

39. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 31, wherein the pH of the ink-receiving layer is from about 2.0 to about 6.0.

40. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 39, wherein the pH of the ink-receiving layer is from about 3.0 to about 4.5.

41. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 31, wherein the alkali metal is present in the ink-receiving layer at from about 0.4 wt% to about 10 wt%.

42. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 31, wherein the ink-receiving layer has an average thickness of from about 10 μm to about 60 μm.

43. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 35, wherein the bubbles have an average diameter of less than about 10 μm.

44. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 35, wherein the bubbles have an average diameter of from about 0.01 μm to about 0.1 μm.

45. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 31, wherein the media substrate is a coated media substrate, and the ink-receiving layer is applied as a topcoat to the coated media substrate.

46. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 45, wherein the ink-receiving layer has an average thickness of from about 0.1 μm to about 10 μm.

47. (withdrawn) A printed image as in claim 46, wherein the alkali metal concentration in the ink-receiving layer applied as a topcoat is greater than is present in the coated media substrate.